~~Claims~~ What is claimed is:

1. Method for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising the steps

- producing a plurality of amplificates of a section of this nucleic acid with the aid of two primers, one of which can bind to a first binding sequence (A) of one strand of the nucleic acid and the other can bind to a second binding sequence (C') which is essentially complementary to a sequence C which is located in the 3' direction from A and does not overlap A, in the presence of a probe with a binding sequence D which can bind to the third sequence (B) located between the sequences A and C or to the complement (B') thereof, wherein this probe contains a reporter group and a quencher group, using a polymerase having 5' nuclease activity and

- detecting the nucleic acid by measuring a signal which is caused by the release of the reporter group,

wherein the amplificates formed with the aid of the primers have a length of less than 75 nucleotides.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binding sequence D of the probe does not overlap one of the binding sequences of the primers.

3. Method as claimed in one of the previous claims, wherein at least one of the binding sequences is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

4. Method as claimed in one of the previous claims, wherein the total length of the amplificates formed with the aid of the primers have a length of less than 61 nucleotides.

5. Method as claimed in one of the previous claims, wherein the probe is labelled with a fluorescence quencher as well as with a fluorescent dye.

6. Method as claimed in one of the previous claims, wherein at least one of the primers is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

7. Method as claimed in claim 6, wherein two of the primers are not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

8. Method as claimed in one of the claims 6 and 7, wherein the probe is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

9. Method as claimed in one of the previous claims, wherein nucleotides which are each complementary to A, G, C and T are used in the amplification.